

## **Learning Module 3**

### **Encyclopedias**

#### **Definitions**

Internet Public Library - Comprehensive, authoritative works containing articles on a wide range of subjects. <http://ipl.org/>

Merriam-Webster Online - a work that contains information on all branches of knowledge or treats comprehensively a particular branch of knowledge usually in articles arranged alphabetically often by subject. <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/encyclopedia>

#### **Characteristics of Encyclopedias**

- introduce a subject in a short general article allowing the user to gain knowledge of the subject along with relevant terminology
- provide summary information about a topic and pointers to additional information

#### **Uses of Encyclopedias**

- ready reference questions
- general background information
- preresearch questions - useful to get a user started but does not provide enough depth

#### **Types of Encyclopedias**

- General: tries to cover all knowledge vs Subject: concentrates on a specific subject
- Print vs Online

#### **Tools for Evaluation of Encyclopedias**

- Kister's Best Encyclopedias: A Comparative Guide to General and Specialized Encyclopedias (Kister's Best Encyclopedias) (older editions acceptable)
- Internet Public Library Encyclopedia Page (evaluates online encyclopedias)  
<http://ipl.org/div/subject/browse/ref32.00.00/>
- CW Post Online Encyclopedia List  
<http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/database/general.htm>
- Other general reference evaluation tools including Booklist which publishes a yearly Encyclopedia Update

## **Evaluation of Encyclopedias**

- Focus or Purpose: generally described in the preface
- Subject Coverage: general versus specialised encyclopedias, national encyclopedias
- Audience: age range for whom the articles are intended
- Arrangement and Style: how are the articles arranged (generally alphabetical)? are there illustrations, chart, graphs, maps?
- Format: online, cdrom, print (size, number of volumes, etc)
- Uniqueness: specialised encyclopedias may be unique, general encyclopedias may contain features that are not present in other general encyclopedias
- Authority: who is the publisher? are contributors subject matter experts?
- Accuracy and Objectivity: does material match that in similar sources? do articles discuss controversial information?
  - An easy way to evaluate a general encyclopedia's objectivity is to search for controversial material. The encyclopedia should reference all sides of the debate.
- Currency: some information will remain current for years (e.g. basic math), other information dates quickly (e.g. current events)
- Indexing: an encyclopedia without an index is a bad idea, encyclopedias should have multiple indexes including a back of the book index, internal cross references and tables of contents

## **Selection of Encyclopedias**

- format: online, cdrom or print
- audience
- cost: strongly related to format
- user needs
- specialised needs of community

## Types of Encyclopedias

### 1. General Encyclopedias

- The World Book Encyclopedia. World Book, Inc.
- World Book Online <http://tryit.worldbookonline.com/>
- The World Book: Student Discovery Encyclopedia. World Book, Inc. (children's)
- The Britannica Concise <http://concise.britannica.com/>
- Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition (one volume encyclopedia)

<http://www.bartleby.com/65/>

- CIA World Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

- Encyclopedia Smithsonian [http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/start.htm](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/start.htm)
- Gale Virtual Reference Library

<http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/database/general.htm>

- Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia Online <http://go.grolier.com>
- Microsoft Encarta Concise Encyclopedia

<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/refpages/artcenter.aspx>

- Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia <http://www.wikipedia.org/>

### 2. Subject Specific Encyclopedias

- History and Culture
  - Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History. New York : Macmillan Library Reference, c1996.
  - Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: the Black experience in the Americas. Detroit, Mich.: Macmillan Reference USA, 2006. via [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)
  - Encyclopedia of World Cultures. Boston, Mass.: G.K. Hall, 1991-1996.
  - The Encyclopedia of World History: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern, Sixth Edition

<http://www.bartleby.com/67/>

- The Latino Encyclopedia. Marshall Cavendish.
  - The Mythology of All Races (in Thirteen Volumes). New York, Cooper Square Publishers.
- Religious
  - New Catholic Encyclopedia. McGraw Hill, 1966.
  - New Catholic Encyclopedia. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Group in association with the Catholic University of America, c2003. via [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)
  - The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World. Oxford University Press, 1995.
  - Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices. via [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)
  - Encyclopaedia Judaica. Jerusalem : Encyclopaedia Judaica, c1994. via [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)
  - Butler's Lives of the Saints. Complete Edition.
- Science and Technology
  - Amazing Animals of the World <http://go.grolier.com>
  - Encyclopedia of Drugs and Alcohol. New York : Macmillan Library Reference USA ; London : Simon & Schuster and Prentice Hall International, c1995.
  - Encyclopedia of Drugs, Alcohol and Addictive Behavior. via [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)
  - Eureka! New York : UXL, 1995.
  - Grizmek's Animal Life Encyclopedia Second Edition, Second Edition. Thompson Gale. via [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)
  - The Marshall Cavendish International Wildlife Encyclopedia, Marshall Cavendish Reference.
  - McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology. New York : McGraw-Hill, 2002.  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/entry.jspvolid=428&source=marc>
  - The New Book of Popular Science, Grolier, Inc. (July 2003). (children's) <http://go.grolier.com>
  - UXL Encyclopedia of Science. Thompson Gale.
- Other Specialised Encyclopedias
  - Encyclopedia of Sociology, Second Edition. New York, N.Y. : Macmillan Reference USA, c2000. via [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)
  - Crimes and Punishment: The Illustrated Crime Encyclopedia. Westport, Conn.: H.S. Stuttman.
  - International Encyclopedia of Communications, Oxford University Press, USA (April 6, 1989).
  - Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit: An Illustrated Encyclopedia, Matthew Biggs, Jekka McVicar, Bob Flowerdew
  - Fiesta! Grolier Educational

### 3. Foreign Language Encyclopedias

- French

Encyclopédie Larousse (Larousse is a big reference work publisher in France. They also publish subject specific encyclopedias and dictionaries.)

<http://www.encyclopedia-larousse.fr/>

- L'Encyclopédie canadienne (Canadian Encyclopedia in French)

<http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca/>

- Wikipédia français: The French version of Wikipedia.

<http://fr.wikipedia.org/>

- Spanish

- Nueva enciclopedia cumbre en linea. Grolier.

Latin American encyclopedia in Spanish. Via Grolier Online

<http://go.grolier.com>

- Enciclopedia Libre Universal en Español:

A Spanish language offshoot from Wikipedia. Not affiliated with Wikipedia.

[http://enciclopedia.us.es/index.php/Enciclopedia\\_Libre\\_Universal\\_en\\_Espa%C3%B1ol](http://enciclopedia.us.es/index.php/Enciclopedia_Libre_Universal_en_Espa%C3%B1ol) (user contributed)

- Enciclopedia Hispánica. Second Edition. 2001. Editorial Barsa Planeta, Inc.
- El Universo. World Book. (Children's, natural science)
- Diccionario de las Ciencias. Larousse. (science)
- Diccionario Enciclopédico Santillana. (science, technology, culture)
- Enciclopedia Ilustrada de Ciencia y Naturaleza. (science and nature)

### Dictionaries, Grammar Books and Thesaurii

## **Language and Linguistics Databases**

<http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/database/language.htm>

also check individual subject areas for subject specific dictionaries.

## **Characteristics of Dictionaries, Grammar Books and Thesaurii**

- used to define words, check spelling, pronunciation and usage or to determine the etymology (history) of the word
- descriptive or prescriptive
- generally an alphabetical list of words and definitions (definition may be abbreviated or extended including full etymology of the word)

## **Evaluation of Sources**

- format: abridged versus unabridged; print versus electronic
- scope: what is included in the dictionary?, what level of detail is provided in the definition?
- authority: publisher reputation, also does the information match that in similar sources
- accuracy: accuracy of spelling or definitions, does it conform to standard practice?
- currency: how often is the dictionary updated? what is the policy on inclusion/exclusion of new or trendy terminology?
- indexing: not required for standard dictionaries, but extremely useful for grammar books, thesaurii and other word books

## **Selection of Sources**

- what types of resources are necessary?
- purchase of abridged versus unabridged dictionaries
- choice of languages to include
- choice of other materials (thesaurus, grammar books, phrase books, etc)

## **Types of Dictionaries, Grammar Books and Thesaurii**

### 1. Unabridged Dictionaries: multi volume dictionaries, often includes word origins

- Murray, Sir John J.A.H. Oxford English Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1625 .O87 1989 OVSZ also online <http://www.oed.com/> subscription only)
- Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1625 .W36 2002 OVSZ)
- Random House Dictionary of the English Language (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1625 .R3 2001)
- American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/261>

### 2. Abridged Dictionaries: generally single volume, cover most common words

- Merriam-Webster  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/366>
- Merriam-Webster Online <http://www.m-w.com/>
- Collins English Dictionary  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/227>
- Penguin English Dictionary  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/132>
- Oxford American Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1628 .N429 2005)

### 3. Dialects, Slang, Jargon, Idioms

- American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/59>
- The How We Talk: American Regional English Today Dictionary of Contemporary Slang  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/460>
- Bum bags and fanny packs : a British-American, American-British dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE2835 .S65 2006)
- Divided by a Common Language  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/383>
- Rawson's Dictionary of Euphemisms and Other Doubletalk  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/115>
- Hip & Hot!: A Dictionary of 10,000 American Slang Expressions (C.W. Post Main Reference PE2846 .S643 1998)
- Dictionary of contemporary slang  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/entry.jsp?volid=453&source=marc>

- The Nonsexist Word Finder: A Dictionary of Gender-Free Usage, Rosalie Maggio (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1689 .M23 1987)

#### 4. Etymology (Word origins)

- Morris Dictionary of word and phrase origins (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1580 .M6 1988)
- Brewer's Dictionary of Modern Phrase and Fable  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/205>

#### 5. Abbreviations and Acronyms

- Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary (Gale Virtual Reference Library)  
[http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://find.galegroup.com/gvrl/aboutEbook.do?prodId=GVRL&userGroupName=nysl\\_li\\_liu&actionString=DO\\_DISPLAY\\_ABOUT\\_PAGE&eisbn=1414404573&searchType=PublicationSearchForm](http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://find.galegroup.com/gvrl/aboutEbook.do?prodId=GVRL&userGroupName=nysl_li_liu&actionString=DO_DISPLAY_ABOUT_PAGE&eisbn=1414404573&searchType=PublicationSearchForm)
- American Heritage Abbreviations Dictionary  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/380>
- The Barnhart Abbreviations Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1693 .B3 1995)

#### 6. Usage and Style

- American Heritage Guide to Contemporary Usage and Style  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/459>
- Fowler. Dictionary of Modern English Usage (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1628 .F65 1983bx)
- Nicholson. A Dictionary of American English Usage (C.W. Post Main Reference PE2835 .N5)
- A Canadian Writer's Reference, Diana Hacker

#### 7. Thesaurii or Synonym Dictionaries

- Roget's II: The New Thesaurus  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/473>
- Junior Thesaurus: In Other Words II (C.W. Post IMC Reference PE1591 .G74 1978)
- Penguin Dictionary of English Synonyms (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1591 .P45 1991x)



- Roget's International Thesaurus (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1591 .R73 1984)
- Visual Thesaurus <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/> (free to try)

## 8. Rhyme and Reverse Dictionaries

- Wood, Clement. Wood's unabridged Rhyming Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1519 .W62)
- Penguin Rhyming Dictionary  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/30>
- Illustrated Reverse Dictionary: find the words on the tip of your tongue (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1591 .I4 1990)
- Bernstein's Reverse Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1591 .B45 1975)

## 9. Non English or Multilingual

- The Perigee Visual Dictionary of Signing: An A-to-Z Guide to Over 1,350 Signs of American Sign Language  
<http://books.google.com/books?id=BcZc8FLhMDYC&dq=visual+dictionary&prints ec=frontcover&source=web&ots=o5pDZhvmJB&sig=watS4ckdL50syEiRwgFDdeD2ET8#PPA26,M1>
- The Gallaudet dictionary of American Sign Language (C.W. Post Main Reference HV2475 .G35 2005)
- Collins French Dictionary  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/257>
- Collins Spanish Dictionary  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/243>
- Le Petit Larousse Illustré (1994)
- Standard French-English, English-French dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PC2640 .S74 1994)
- Larousse Dictionnaire Français-Russe, Russe-Français
- Random House Webster's Pocket Italian Dictionary: Italian-English, English-Italian
- The American heritage Larousse Spanish dictionary. Spanish/English, English/Spanish (C.W. Post Main Reference PC4640 .A54 1986)
- The New Joys of Yiddish, Leo Rostein (C.W. Post Main Circulation PN6231.J5 R67 2001)
- Webster's Online Dictionary <http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/>
- Wiktionary [http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page)

## 10. Subject Specific Dictionaries

- Medline Plus Medical Dictionary  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html>
- New Penguin Dictionary of Science  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/44>
- Blackwell Dictionary of Sociology  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/72>
- Collins Dictionary of Law  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/429>
- Dictionary of optometry and visual science  
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/entry.jsp?volid=392&source=marc>

## 11. Visual, Picture and Other Dictionaries (adult and children's)

- Descriptive: A Thematic Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1591 .M415 1992bx)
- Ultimate visual dictionary of science (C.W. Post Main Reference Q123 .U43 1998)
- The Macmillan Visual Dictionary: Multilingual Edition
- The Duden pictorial encyclopedia in five languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish. Over 30,000 key words explained in pictures; with indexes in five languages (C.W. Post Main Reference P361 .D8 1958)
- The Facts on File visual dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference AG250 .C63 1986)
- DK Illustrated Oxford Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference PE1629 .D5 1998)
- Scholastic Children's Dictionary (C.W. Post IMC Reference PE1628.5 .S3 1996)
- My Second Picture dictionary (C.W. Post IMC Reference PE1629 .G74 1971b)
- The Oxford picture dictionary for the content areas (C.W. Post IMC Reference PE1629 .K38 2000)
- Oxford Picture Dictionary of American English (C.W. Post IMC Reference PE2835.5 .P3)
- The Firefly Visual Dictionary  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=Ue0OWiGXGOoC&dq=visual+dictionary&printsec=frontcover&source=web&ots=dLCLejskeQ&sig=Cgg\\_C4VCUk7LXyrw0O6geXT2Oqk](http://books.google.com/books?id=Ue0OWiGXGOoC&dq=visual+dictionary&printsec=frontcover&source=web&ots=dLCLejskeQ&sig=Cgg_C4VCUk7LXyrw0O6geXT2Oqk)

## 12. Online Dictionaries and Vocabulary Lists

- Wiktionary (user contributed) <http://www.wiktionary.org/>
- Urban Dictionary (slang dictionary, user contributed) <http://www.urbandictionary.com/>
- Little Explorers Picture Dictionaries <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Dictionary.html>
- The Internet Picture Dictionary <http://www.pdictionary.com/>
- The Giraffian Picture Dictionary <http://giraffian.com/pictionary/>
- Yiddish-Hebrew-English-German-Russian-French Picture Dictionary <http://www.ibiblio.org/yiddish/Vort/>
- eflnet Vocabulary Index, Rich McGirr <http://www.eflnet.com/vocab/index.php>
- Bissonnette on Costume: A Visual Dictionary of Fashion <http://dept.kent.edu/museum/costume/index.asp>

### 13. Bescherelles or Grammar Books: includes verb conjugation books

- Barron's Russian Grammar, Natalia Lusin
- Le Nouveau Bescherelle: 1. L'art de conjuguer: dictionnaire de 12000 verbes (verb conjugations)
- 12,000 French verbs (C.W. Post Main Circulation PC2272 .T84 1986x) [similar to the Bescherelle listed above]
- Le Nouveau Bescherelle: 2. L'art de l'orthographe: les homonymes: les mots difficiles (spelling)
- Le Nouveau Bescherelle: 3. La grammaire pour tous (grammar)
- Barron's 501 Russian Verbs, Thomas R. Beyer, Jr.

### 14. Language Guides and Phrase Books

- Berlitz Russian for Travellers
- Berlitz Italian Phrase Book and Dictionary
- Schaum's outline of French vocabulary <http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/liu/Doc?id=5002156>
- Spanish Among Amigos: conversational Spanish beyond the classroom <http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/liu/Doc?id=10065222>
- Habla español?: no, but I can try to help: practical Spanish for the reference desk (C.W. Post Main Circulation PC4120.L52 P76 1991)
- Spanish for the nutrition professional (C.W. Post Main Circulation PC4120.N87 B38 2005)
- The American Heritage dictionary for learners of English (C.W. Post Main Circulation PE1628 .A6229 2002)

**Week 3 Notes Corection:**

Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia Online: site correct, though it requires a user name and password. The current ID and password for Grolier is posted on the home page.

(same with Amazing Animals of the World, Latin American Encyclopedia in Spanish and New Book of Popular Science) All of these are at <http://go.grolier.com>

McGraw Hill Concise Encyclopedia of Science and Technology: <http://www.xreferplus.com/vol/428>

for the Encyclopedie Larousse: The link is correct, but it requires Microsoft MSXML 4.0 or more and may not let you view.

For Schaum's Outline of French Vocabulary and Spanish Among Amigos: Conversational Spanish Beyond the Classroom, the links work. It will probably be necessary for you to download the ebrary reader on your computer

[http://site.ebrary.com/lib/liu/support/2\\_gettingstarted00.jsp?resize=true](http://site.ebrary.com/lib/liu/support/2_gettingstarted00.jsp?resize=true) (help page)